

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights

Neighborhood Councils should have the ability to communicate with any level of government, with the clear understanding that they have no policy making power for the City of Los Angeles

Neighborhood Councils should have the ability to conduct their general assembly meeting both in person and virtually, with the public having equal access to make public comments

Neighborhood Councils should have the ability to modify their bylaws from the day they are seated until the start of the next election period

Neighborhood Councils should be more clearly recognized as part of the Los Angeles Government and be treated equally as any other elected or appointed official for the City. They are not employees and should not be subject to any Los Angeles City Ordinances that pertain to employees, as compared to elected or appointed officials

Neighborhood Councils should get quarterly status reports from each City Department as to the services provided in their area over that period

Neighborhood Councils should weigh in on the Los Angeles City Budget process by submitting questions for the various City Departments and Los Angeles City Council Budget & Finance Committee through Board votes and affirmed by a Board Action Certification (BAC)

Neighborhood Councils should be able to roll over any unused funds from one fiscal year to the next subject to no limitations

Neighborhood Councils should do all the training that every elected and appointed official in the City of Los Angeles does and no additional specialized training. Any new training should not be mandatory until after the next set of Neighborhood Councils elections; if any portion of the election process has started, then the training should not be mandatory until after the following Neighborhood Council term

Neighborhood Councils should get support from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for advertising elections & finding new candidates and support from the Department of the City Clerk for running the elections

Neighborhood Councils who enter "Exhaustive Efforts" shall receive a plan from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment within thirty days detailing the effort to restore their Neighborhood Council to normal status within six months

Neighborhood Councils should get a new ordinance passed that strengthens the rules regarding the conduct of lobbyists in committee and general assembly meetings

Neighborhood Councils should have a closer relationship with the Los Angeles City Council regarding Planning & Land Use Management. The City Council should make a new Planning & Land Use Management body that contains members from both the City Council and the Neighborhood Council System. The details will be specified in a new City Ordinance.

Neighborhood Councils should get a specialized unit at the Los Angeles Information Technology Agency (ITA) that helps provide technological help for Neighborhood Councils, including items like agenda creation, bylaws modification, advertising campaign templates and other items that benefit from centralized design and decentralized usage

Neighborhood Councils should get a yearly event at City Hall hosted by the Mayor and City Council, whose purpose is to advertise the Neighborhood Council System and the benefits they provide. Additionally, these two events should celebrate local government and the value it puts in our lives. They City should partner with companies that are local to Los Angeles for the event

Neighborhood Councils should have the following basic infrastructure paid for from the Los Angeles City Council: venue rental, translation services, equipment for both in person and virtual public meetings, storage unit, website, office & internet software, and any other items the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners deem "Critical basic infrastructure"

Neighborhood Councils should get an expansion in the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners so that there is one commissioner for each of the twelve Neighborhood Council Regions. Additionally, there should be one at large member so that there is a total of thirteen Neighborhood Commissioners

Neighborhood Councils should get fully funded Brown Act compliant regional alliances that allow the Neighborhood Councils to work together on regional goals. These Brown Act compliant regional alliances should be composed solely of current Neighborhood Council Board Members who get nominated and elected by the then current Neighborhood Councils. There should be one regional alliance for each of the twelve regional commissioners and one general City wide alliance for the at large commissioner

Neighborhood Councils should get monthly attendance at their General Assembly meetings by a representative from both the Mayor & their Councilmember

Neighborhood Councils should be able to get an item placed on a Los Angeles City Council agenda if a majority of Neighborhood Councils Boards approve it via Board votes and Board Action Certifications within three months

Neighborhood Councils should be able to get a Los Angeles City Council agenda item vetoed if seventy five percent of Neighborhood Councils Boards approve it via Board votes and Board Action Certifications within three months

Neighborhood Councils should provide their area a yearly update of all their activities and this should be approved via Board votes and Board Action Certifications

Neighborhood Councils should get a yearly “Nonprofits of Los Angeles” event put on by the City of Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Convention Center where the Neighborhood Councils get an opportunity to learn about the various nonprofits in Los Angeles for the purposes of giving out their Non Profit Grants

Neighborhood Councils should get the help of the Mayor & the City Council to gain a relationship with their local LAUSD School Representative and local Public School Principals

Neighborhood Councils should get guaranteed speaking rights at any Los Angeles Commission Meeting if their Board has passed a Community Impact Statement and properly filed it at least 24 hours in advance of a Los Angeles City Council Meeting

Neighborhood Councils should have their elections on the same ballot as any other Los Angeles Elections, regardless of added complexity

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to receive optional training on topics such as conflict resolution, diversity and inclusion, and public speaking, if they request it from the City

Neighborhood Councils should be able to review and comment on environmental impact reports related to projects within their jurisdiction

Neighborhood Councils should be able to propose community-driven initiatives for improving local infrastructure, such as street repairs, public transportation, or green spaces, as City Council Agenda Items

Neighborhood Councils should receive extra financial support for hosting community events and activities that promote civic engagement, cultural awareness, or environmental sustainability.

Neighborhood Councils should get increased ability to advocate for policy changes that prioritize the needs of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups, such as people experiencing homelessness, immigrant communities, or LGBTQ+ individuals.

Neighborhood Councils should participate in decision-making processes related to public safety, such as the allocation of police resources or the establishment of community policing programs.

Neighborhood Councils should receive regular training on disaster preparedness and emergency response, and to work collaboratively with local agencies to develop and implement emergency plans.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to review and provide input on any proposed development projects within their area, and have their input be considered by the relevant city agencies.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to receive timely and accurate information from city departments on issues that affect their area, including but not limited to public safety, housing, transportation, and environmental issues.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to be consulted and have their input considered by the city when developing and implementing policies that affect their area.

Neighborhood Councils should have a guaranteed right to receive funding from the city to support their activities, such as organizing community events, providing services to residents, and conducting outreach to underrepresented communities.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to hold public hearings on issues of concern to their area, and to have their findings and recommendations be considered by the relevant city agencies.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to file lawsuits on behalf of their area, subject to approval by the City Attorney.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to establish partnerships with other local governments, community organizations, and private entities to address issues that affect their area.

Neighborhood Councils should have the right to propose and advocate for changes to the City Charter and other city laws and policies.